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new universe™

MARK HAZZARD: MERC™

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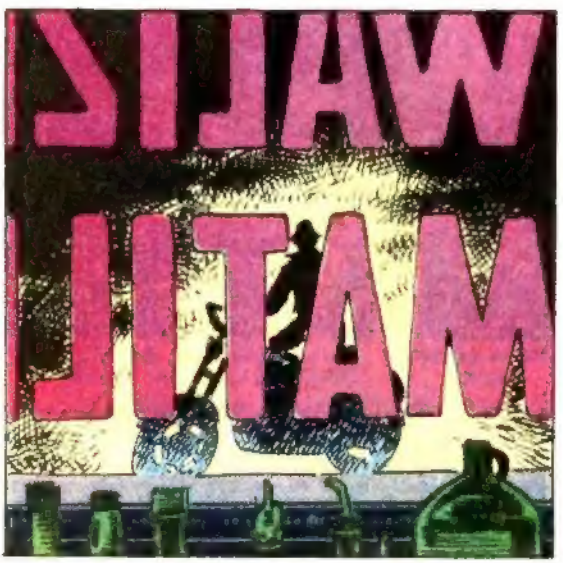
IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM FAIR!

FAIR! SINCE WHEN IS THIS OLD WORLD FAIR! BESIDES, HE'S A PROUD MAN-- AND HE NEEDS THE HELP, LIN!

MAYBE MARK DOES NEED THE HELP AT THAT!

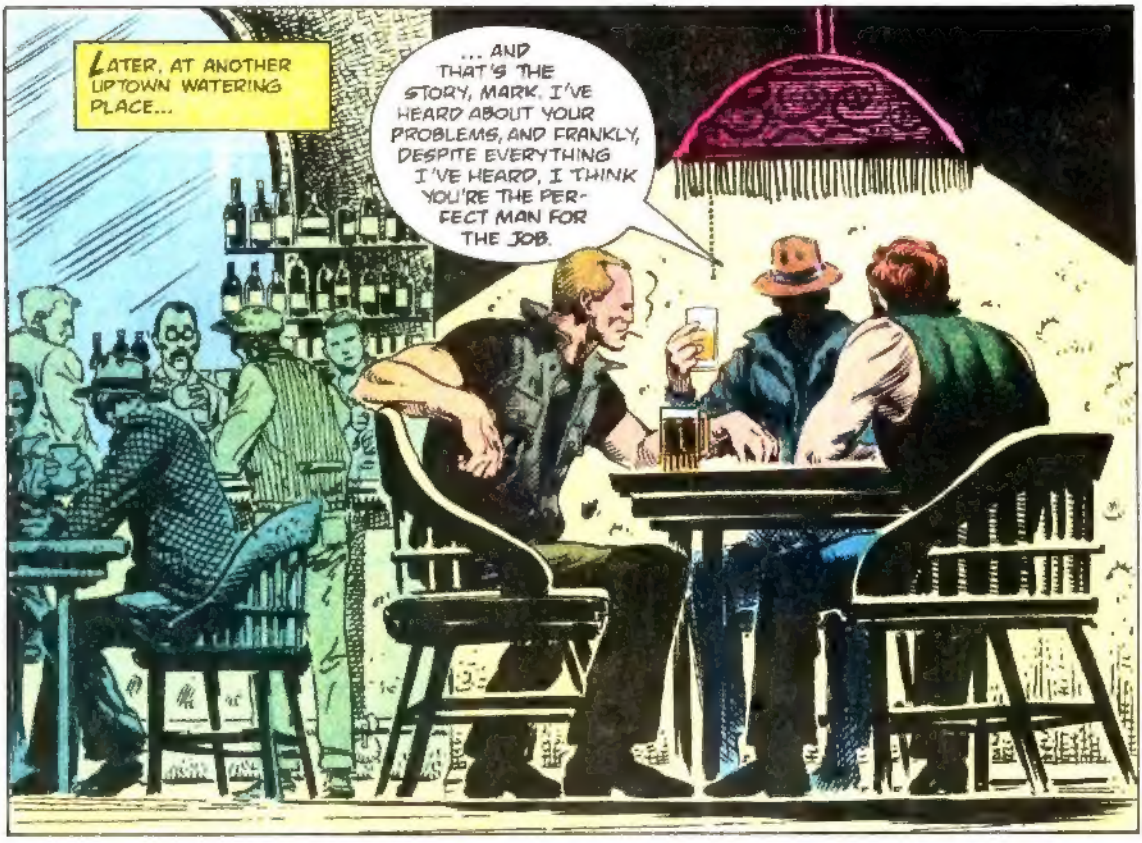
A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER...
MARTIAL ART
I'M SORRY, MR GRIFFIN. HE'S JUST NOT HERE. TRY 'WALTZIN'MATILDA' UP ON 79™.
HE GOES THERE ONCE IN A WHILE.

AN AUSTRALIAN BAR! NO WONDER HE CAN'T FIND ANY WORK.


JIAW
JITAM

WHAT THE--
THAT'S IT, MARK, YOU'LL SHOW THE BUGGERS!
ALL RIGHT YOU BIG MICK-- NOW WE'LL SEE...
HERE NOW, THAT'S NOT VERY FAIR, IS IT?!

CAN'T LET ALL THAT GOOD SCOTCH GO TO WASTE, NOW CAN WE!
DEWARS
ANYONE ELSE?
ANY OTHER HEROES WHO THINK THEY KNOW WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE?!*
OPEN
*SEE MERC #7
LINCOLN GRIFFIN? WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
LOOKING FOR YOU, MARK! WHAT ELSE WOULD A GOOD IRISHMAN BE DOING IN A LOW DIVE LIKE THIS?
I'VE GOT WORK FOR YOU...
...AS SOON AS YOU CAN FIND A PILOT. MAL, I'VE GOT A SPOT FOR YOU IF YOU INTERESTED.
WALTZ'IN M&T
SURE, I'M IN. BUT... MARK, A PILOT?


LATER, AT ANOTHER UPTOWN WATERING PLACE...
... AND THAT'S THE STORY, MARK. I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR PROBLEMS, AND FRANKLY, DESPITE EVERYTHING I'VE HEARD, I THINK YOU'RE THE PERFECT MAN FOR THE JOB.

WHY?!

BECAUSE I NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN PLAN, SOMEONE WHO CAN AD-LIB. AND MOST OF ALL, SOMEONE WHO CAN SUCCEED!

WHEN?!

THREE DAYS LATER, IN MARSEILLES...
I DON'T BELIEVE I LET MYSELF BE TALKED INTO THIS! THIS BETTER BE AS YOU SAID, MARK!
TAKE IT EASY, RITTER.
YOU OWE ME!
A NIGHT'S SAILING LATER...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THE HIGH AND MIGHTY MARK HAZZARD, HALO, RANGER AND NUMBAH ONE MERCENARY,-- SEASICK AS SOME GREENIE KID! WAIT UNTIL MAL HEARS ABOUT THIS!
WANT A BITE... MARK OLD MAN Z! HA! HA! HA!
THE NEXT MORNING...
WHAT'S THIS? VISITORS FROM THE MAINLAND?
INTERESTING.

CUSTOM AGENTS!
FRIENDS OF YOURS, CAPTAIN?
JUST REMEMBER WHAT YOU ARE PAID FOR AND WHO IS PAYING YOU...
... AND ONE MORE THING.
REMEMBER WHO I AM!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
JUST THE LOCAL CONSTABULARY. NOTHING TO WORRY.
AND IT LOOKS LIKE...
MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND HERE TOO. COME ON, LET'S GET SOME LUNCH

THE NEXT MORNING.
THIS LOOKS LIKE OUR NEXT STOP.
OKAY, WE'RE HERE--WHEREVER HERE IS! WHAT NOW?
NOW YOU EARN YOUR MONEY!
LET'S GO!
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILLS.
RITTER! YOU'LL BE FLYING THAT HEAP!

MEANWHILE, SOME MILES AWAY...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR AID, SIR. WITH SOME LUCK...
WE'LL BE UNLOADED AND ON OUR WAY BEFORE SUNSET.
AND TAKE THIS SIR, FOR YOUR HELP AND TROUBLE.
MONEY TALKS ALL OVER THE WORLD. LET'S HOPE MARK REMEMBERS THAT TOO.
SEE, MAL...?

YOU'VE GOT TO BE K'DDING ME!
I CAN'T FLY THIS THING! I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN ONE BEFORE!
C'MON, RITTER! YOU CLAIM YOU CAN FLY ANYTHING WITH WINGS!
WHY NOT THIS OLD RELIC?
LOOK AT THIS! I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING I NEED! I DON'T KNOW WHAT HALF THIS STUFF IS FOR! HOW CAN I FLY IT?
BETTER LEARN FAST, TAKEOFF IS AT 0330 IN THE MORNING
THAT'S IN LESS THAN TEN HOURS! MARK! 'T CAN'T BE DONE!
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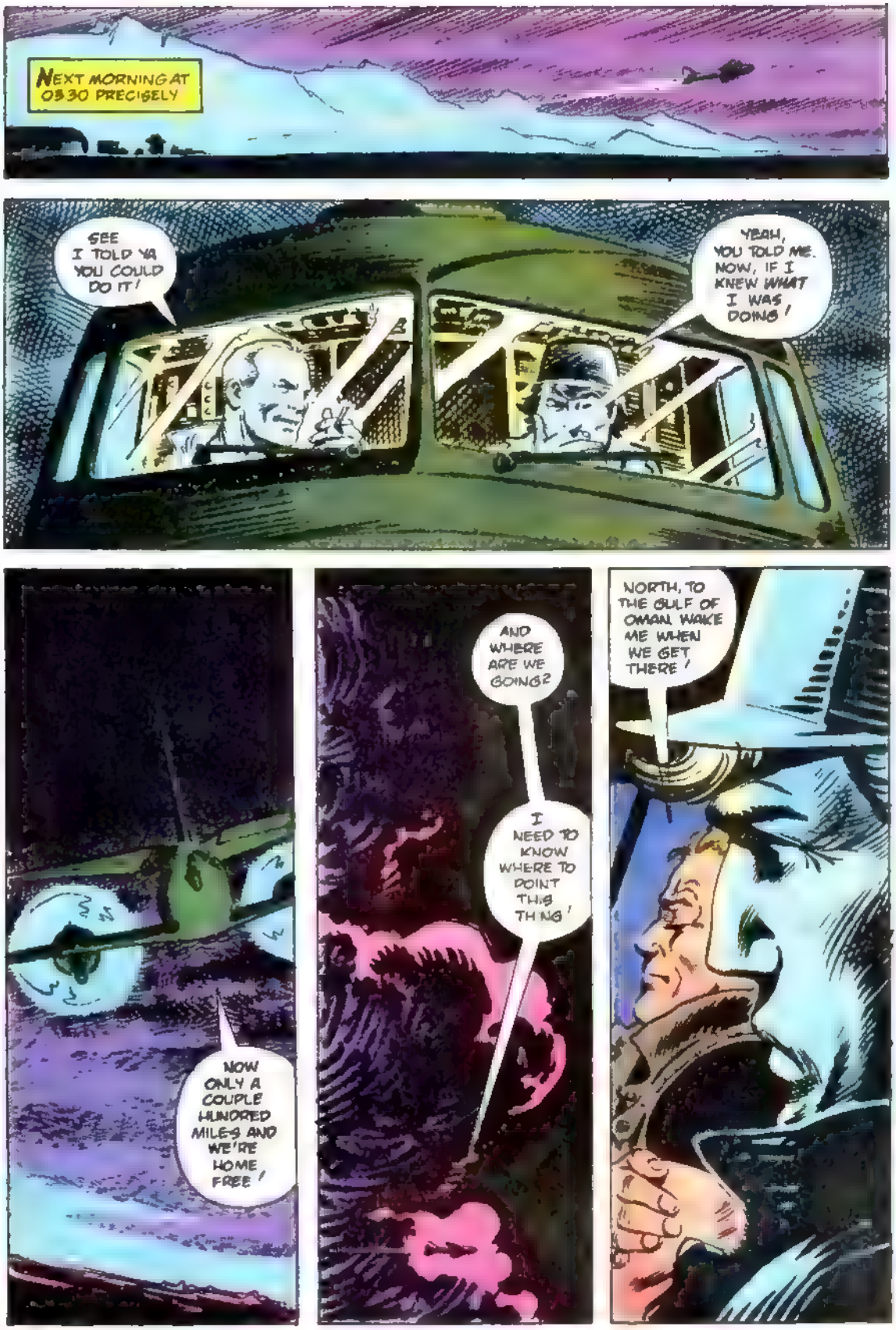

NEXT MORNING AT 0330 PRECISELY
SEE I TOLD YA YOU COULD DO IT!
YEAH, YOU TOLD ME. NOW, IF I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING!
NOW ONLY A COUPLE HUNDRED MILES AND WE'RE HOME FREE!
AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?
I NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO POINT THIS THING!
NORTH, TO THE GULF OF OMAN. WAKE ME WHEN WE GET THERE!

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING AT THE INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER
NOW, IF WE CAN GET THROUGH HERE...
OH OH, TROUBLE!
HANG ON, MAL!
AS THE BIG TRUCK RESPONDS TO LIN'S URGING...
THE GUARDS SHOW THE GREATER PART OF VALOR
WELL, I GUESS WE CAN'T COME BACK THIS WAY!

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING AT THE NEW MEXICAN BORDER...
NOW, IF WE CAN GET THROUGH HERE...
OH-OH, TROUBLE!
HANG ON, MAL!
AS THE BIG TRUCK RESPONDS TO LIN'S URGING...
THE GUARDS SHOW THE GREATER PART OF VALOR
WELL, I GUESS WE CAN'T COME BACK THIS WAY!

AT THE SAME TIME, OVER THE GULF OF OMAN.
HOLY HANNAH, MORK! WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PERSIAN GULF WAR!

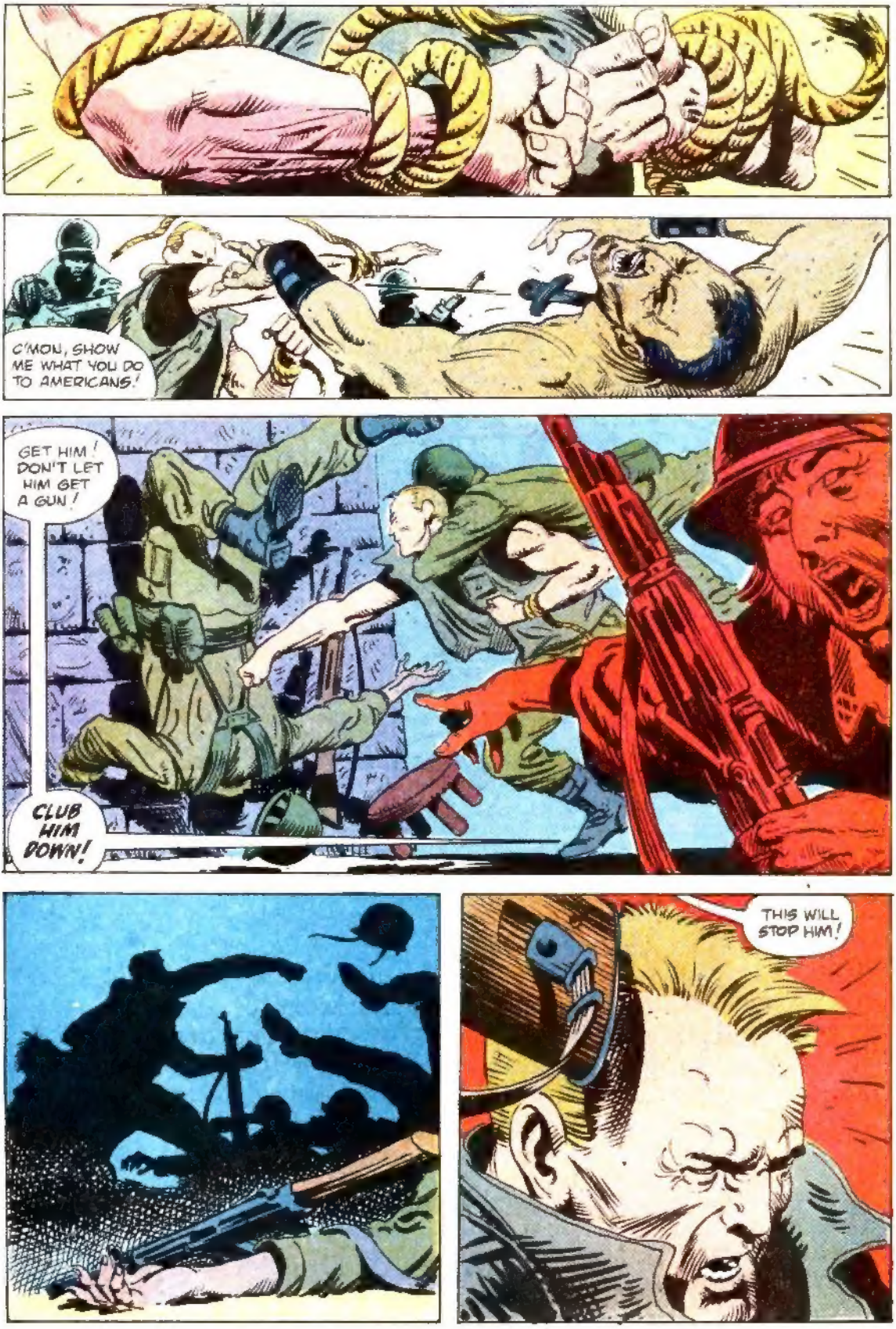
OH OH ONE OF THE BOYS NOTICED US!
THIS OLD RUSTBUCKET CAN'T TAKE THAT KIND OF BUFFETING!
HE MEANS BUSINESS, MARK --YOU'VE GOT TO OPEN THE FARM IMPLEMENTS WE NEED ONE OF THOSE STINGERS BACK THERE TO GET RID OF THIS GUY!
SORRY, RITTER THERE ARE NO STINGERS BACK THERE! NONE AT ALL!
AT ONCE! I SAY AGAIN! ACKNOWLEDGE OR I WILL SHOOT YOU DOWN! ACKNOWLEDGE AT ONCE!

LATER, IN THE WASTES OF AFGHANISTAN
ANY TIME NOW
YEAH. LIKE ABOUT NOW.
MR GRIFFIN, I PRESUME?

YOU SPEAK ENGLISH VERY WELL'
I WAS A STUDENT AT YOUR U.C.L.A JUST LIKE THEY USED TO SAY IN ALL THOSE OLD MOVIES
THERE ARE THOSE WHO YOU HAVE COME TO SEE. WE CANNOT LET YOU KNOW THEIR NAMES, WE CANNOT TAKE ANY CHANCE THAT THE RUSSIANS MIGHT FIND OUT'
I UNDER-STAND, MAL'
I BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT YOU GENTLEMEN NEEDED
STINGERS, TO TEACH THE RUSSIAN PILOTS TO KEEP THEIR HEADS DOWN'
STINGER
CAUTION

WHERE ARE THE STINGERS?
STINGERS? WE'RE SHIPPING FARM IMPLEMENTS, JUST LIKE THE CRATES SAY
LIAR! OUR SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT YOU ARE SMUGGLING STINGERS TO THE AFGHANS
WHERE ARE THE STINGERS?
FARM IMPLEMENTS? SEE FOR YOURSELF
TAKE THEM AWAY AND GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT WHILE WE CHECK THE REST OF THEIR CARGO!
I'M TELLING YOU, NOTHING BUT REAL, HONEST-TO-GOD FARM IMPLEMENTS!

NICE PLACE EH BITTER?
PLAY GROUND OF THE EASTERN WORLD!
AMERICAN DEVIL! WHERE ARE THE STINGERS?
SHOVE IT WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE!
SEE WHAT WE DO WITH AMERICANS! YOU TALK!


C'MON, SHOW ME WHAT YOU DO TO AMERICANS!
GET HIM! DON'T LET HIM GET A GUN!
CLUB HIM DOWN!
THIS WILL STOP HIM!

COME ON, BIG MAN! WAKE UP, NAP TIME IS OVER!
RITTER!
YOU CAN HELP YOUR FRIEND! JUST TELL ME WHERE THE STINGERS ARE!
THERE AREN'T ANY STINGERS! WE WERE THE DECOY! BY NOW, THE STINGERS ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE MUJAHDEEN!
THEN YOUR FRIEND WILL DIE FOR NOTHING. FIRING SQUAD!
WAIT, YOU GAIN NOTHING BY THIS!
WAIT!
FIRE!

NOOOO!

BACK IN NEW YORK...
SO THAT'S THE STORY. THEY'VE GOT MARK, AND WE'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH A WAY TO GET HIM BACK!

AND SOON! MY CONTACTS TELL ME WE HAVE LESS THEN A WEEK BEFORE THEY EXECUTE HIM AS WELL!

NOW, HERE'S A WAY WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO IT...

LATER THAT NIGHT...
CAN WE DO IT, MAL? CAN WE SAVE HIM?

WE'LL SAVE HIM, GIRL! OR WE'LL TAKE OUT THE ENTIRE IRANIAN ARMY TRYING!